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General Assembly

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Sixtieth session
Agenda item 39

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/60/499)*]

60/127. Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council decisions 2005/243 of 22 July 2005 and 2005/314 of 21 October 2005 concerning the enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Taking note also of the requests regarding the enlargement of the Executive Committee contained in the letter dated 8 March 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General[1] and the letter dated 12 September 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General,[2]

1. *Decides* to increase the number of members of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from sixty-eight to seventy States;

2. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to elect the additional members at its resumed organizational session for 2006.

64th plenary meeting
16 December 2005

[1] E/2005/46.
[2] E/2005/93.

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/60/499)*]

60/128. Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 59/172 of 20 December 2004,

Recalling also the Organization of African Unity Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa of 1969[1] and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,[2]

Reaffirming that the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees,[3] together with the 1967 Protocol thereto,[4] as complemented by the Organization of African Unity Convention of 1969, remains the foundation of the international refugee protection regime in Africa,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General[5] and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[6]

2. *Notes* the need for African States to address resolutely the root causes of all forms of forced displacement in Africa and to foster peace, stability and prosperity throughout the African continent so as to forestall refugee flows;

3. *Notes with great concern* that, despite all of the efforts made so far by the United Nations, the African Union and others, the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Africa remains precarious, and calls upon States and other parties to armed conflict to observe scrupulously the letter and spirit of international humanitarian law, bearing in mind that armed conflict is one of the principal causes of forced displacement in Africa;

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1001, No. 14691.

[2] Ibid., vol. 1520, No. 26363.

[3] Ibid., vol. 189, No. 2545.

[4] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

[5] A/60/293.

[6] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/60/12).

4. *Welcomes* decision EX.CL/Dec.197 (VII) on the situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa adopted by the Executive Council of the African Union at its seventh ordinary session, held at Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, from 28 June to 2 July 2005;[7]

5. *Expresses its appreciation* for the leadership shown by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and commends the Office for its ongoing efforts, with the support of the international community, to assist African countries of asylum and to respond to the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa;

6. *Recognizes* that, among refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons, women and children are the majority of the population affected by conflict and bear the brunt of atrocities and other consequences of conflict, and calls upon States to promote and protect the human rights of all refugees and other persons of concern, paying special attention to those with specific needs, and to tailor their protection responses appropriately;

7. *Reiterates* the importance of the full and effective implementation of standards and procedures, including the monitoring and reporting mechanism outlined in Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) of 26 July 2005, to better address the specific protection needs of refugee children and adolescents and to safeguard rights and, in particular, to ensure adequate attention to unaccompanied and separated children and children affected by armed conflict, including former child soldiers in refugee settings, as well as in the context of voluntary repatriation and reintegration measures;

8. *Recognizes* the importance of early registration and effective registration systems and censuses as a tool of protection and as a means to enable the quantification and assessment of needs for the provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance and to implement appropriate durable solutions;

9. *Recalls* the conclusion on registration of refugees and asylum-seekers adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its fifty-second session,[8] notes the many forms of harassment faced by refugees and asylum-seekers who remain without any form of documentation attesting to their status, recalls the responsibility of States to register refugees on their territories, reiterates in this context the central role which early and effective registration and documentation can play, guided by protection considerations, in enhancing protection and supporting efforts to find durable solutions, and calls upon the Office of the High Commissioner, as appropriate, to help States to conduct this procedure should they be unable to register refugees on their territory;

10. *Calls upon* the international community, including States and the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant United Nations organizations, within their respective mandates, to take concrete action to meet the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons and to contribute generously to projects and programmes aimed at alleviating their plight and facilitating durable solutions for refugees and displaced persons;

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[7] See African Union, document EX.CL/Dec.192–235 (VII).

[8] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/56/12/Add.1), chap. III, sect. B.

11. *Reaffirms* the importance of timely and adequate assistance and protection for refugees, also reaffirms that assistance and protection are mutually reinforcing and that inadequate material assistance and food shortages undermine protection, notes the importance of a rights- and community-based approach in engaging constructively with individual refugees and their communities to achieve fair and equitable access to food and other forms of material assistance, and expresses concern in regard to situations in which minimum standards of assistance are not met, including those in which adequate needs assessments have yet to be undertaken;

12. *Also reaffirms* that respect by States for their protection responsibilities towards refugees is strengthened by international solidarity involving all members of the international community and that the refugee protection regime is enhanced through committed international cooperation in a spirit of solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing among all States;

13. *Further reaffirms* that host States have the primary responsibility to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, and calls upon States, in cooperation with international organizations, within their mandates, to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection and, in particular, to ensure that the civilian and humanitarian nature of refugee camps is not compromised by the presence or the activities of armed elements or used for purposes that are incompatible with their civilian character;

14. *Condemns* all acts that pose a threat to the personal security and well-being of refugees and asylum-seekers, such as refoulement, unlawful expulsion and physical attacks, calls upon States of refuge, in cooperation with international organizations, where appropriate, to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection, including the humane treatment of asylum-seekers, notes with interest that the High Commissioner has continued to take steps to encourage the development of measures to better ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue those efforts, in consultation with States and other relevant actors;

15. *Deplores* the continuing violence and insecurity which constitute an ongoing threat to the safety and security of staff members of the Office of the High Commissioner and other humanitarian organizations and an obstacle to the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Office and the ability of its implementing partners and other humanitarian personnel to discharge their respective humanitarian functions, urges States, parties to conflict and all other relevant actors to take all necessary measures to protect activities related to humanitarian assistance, prevent attacks on and kidnapping of national and international humanitarian workers and ensure the safety and security of the personnel and property of the Office and that of all humanitarian organizations discharging functions mandated by the Office, and calls upon States to investigate fully any crime committed against humanitarian personnel and bring to justice the persons responsible for such crimes;

16. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the African Union, subregional organizations and all African States, in conjunction with agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the international community, to strengthen and revitalize existing partnerships and forge new ones in support of the international refugee protection system, notes with

interest the result of the Humanitarian Response Review,[9] welcomes the proposals made by the Secretary-General and the General Assembly to strengthen the United Nations humanitarian system, and takes note of deliberations by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee aimed at following up on the Humanitarian Response Review and bringing about greater consistency in the response to humanitarian emergencies;

17. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the international community and other concerned entities to intensify their support to African Governments through appropriate capacity-building activities, including training of relevant officers, disseminating information about refugee instruments and principles, providing financial, technical and advisory services to accelerate the enactment or amendment and implementation of legislation relating to refugees, strengthening emergency response and enhancing capacities for the coordination of humanitarian activities;

18. *Reaffirms* the right of return and the principle of voluntary repatriation, appeals to countries of origin and countries of asylum to create conditions that are conducive to voluntary repatriation, recognizes that, while voluntary repatriation remains the pre-eminent solution, local integration and third-country resettlement, where appropriate and feasible, are also viable options for dealing with the situation of African refugees who, owing to prevailing circumstances in their respective countries of origin, are unable to return home, and welcomes in this regard the conclusion on local integration adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its fifty-sixth session;[10]

19. *Also reaffirms* that voluntary repatriation should not necessarily be conditioned on the accomplishment of political solutions in the country of origin in order not to impede the exercise of the refugees' right to return, and recognizes that the voluntary repatriation and reintegration process is normally guided by the conditions in the country of origin, in particular that voluntary repatriation can be accomplished in conditions of safety and dignity;

20. *Welcomes* the development by the High Commissioner, in cooperation with other United Nations agencies and development actors, of the framework for durable solutions, aimed at promoting lasting solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, including the "4Rs" approach (repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction) to sustainable return;

21. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide financial and material assistance that allows for the implementation of community-based development programmes that benefit both refugees and host communities, as appropriate, in agreement with host countries and consistent with humanitarian objectives, and recognizes that promoting the self-reliance of refugees from the outset will contribute towards enhancing the ability of refugee communities to become self-reliant, as and when appropriate, with adequate support from the international community for the host country and the refugees living there;

22. *Appeals* to the international community to respond positively, in the spirit of solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to the third-country

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[9] See Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Humanitarian Response Review* (New York and Geneva, 2005).

[10] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/60/12/Add.1), chap. III, sect. C.

resettlement needs of African refugees, notes in this regard the importance of using resettlement strategically, as part of situation-specific comprehensive responses to refugee situations, and to this end encourages interested States, the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant partners to make full use of the Multilateral Framework of Understandings on Resettlement,[11] where appropriate;

23. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide material and financial assistance for the implementation of programmes intended for the rehabilitation of the environment and infrastructure affected by refugees in countries of asylum;

24. *Urges* the international community, in the spirit of international solidarity and burden-sharing, to continue to fund generously the refugee programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner and, taking into account the substantially increased needs of programmes in Africa, inter alia, as a result of repatriation possibilities, to ensure that Africa receives a fair and equitable share of the resources designated for refugees;

25. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner and interested States to identify protracted refugee situations which might lend themselves to resolution through the development of specific, multilateral, comprehensive and practical approaches to resolving such refugee situations, including improvement of international burden- and responsibility-sharing and realization of durable solutions, within a multilateral context;

26. *Expresses grave concern* about the plight of internally displaced persons in Africa, calls upon States to take concrete action to pre-empt internal displacement and to meet the protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons, recalls in that regard the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,[12] and encourages the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to explore, with other relevant actors, the feasibility of taking on coordination responsibilities for clusters related to the protection of internally displaced persons, camp management and shelter in conflict situations as part of a broader United Nations coordination effort in support of United Nations humanitarian coordinators, without prejudice to its core mandate of refugee protection and assistance;

27. *Invites* the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons to continue his ongoing dialogue with Member States and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in accordance with his mandate, and to include information thereon in his reports to the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session, taking fully into account the efforts expended by countries of asylum, under the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions", and to present an oral report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2006.

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[11] Available from www.unhcr.org.

[12] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/60/499)*]

60/129. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office[1] and the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its fifty-sixth session[2] and the conclusions and decisions contained therein,

Recalling its previous annual resolutions on the work of the Office of the High Commissioner since its establishment by the General Assembly,

Expressing its appreciation for the leadership shown by the High Commissioner, commending the staff and implementing partners of the Office of the High Commissioner for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities, and underscoring its strong condemnation of all forms of violence to which humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel are increasingly exposed,

1. *Endorses* the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its fifty-sixth session;[2]

2. *Welcomes* the important work undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its Executive Committee in the course of the year, and notes in this context the adoption of the general conclusion on international protection, the conclusion on the provision of international protection, including through complementary forms of protection, and the conclusion on local integration,[3] which are aimed at strengthening the international protection regime, consistent with the Agenda for Protection,[4] and at assisting

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/60/12).

[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 12A* (A/60/12/Add.1).

[3] Ibid., chap. III, sects. A–C.

[4] Ibid., *Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/57/12/Add.1), annex IV.

Governments in meeting their protection responsibilities in today's changing international environment;

3. *Reaffirms* the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees[5] and the 1967 Protocol thereto[6] as the foundation of the international refugee protection regime, recognizes the importance of their full and effective application by States parties and the values they embody, notes with satisfaction that one hundred and forty-six States are now parties to one instrument or to both, encourages States not parties to consider acceding to those instruments, underlines in particular the importance of full respect for the principle of non-refoulement, and recognizes that a number of States not parties to the international refugee instruments have shown a generous approach to hosting refugees;

4. *Notes* that fifty-eight States are now parties to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons[7] and that thirty States are parties to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,[8] and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his activities on behalf of stateless persons;

5. *Notes with interest* the Mexico Plan of Action to Strengthen International Protection of Refugees in Latin America, endorsed by States participating in the meeting commemorating the twentieth anniversary of the Cartagena Declaration on Refugees convened in Mexico City on 15 and 16 November 2004,[9] and expresses its support for the efforts of interested States and the Office of the High Commissioner to promote its implementation, with the cooperation and assistance of the international community;

6. *Welcomes* the successful conclusion of the follow-up process to the 1996 Geneva Conference on the problems of refugees, displaced persons, migration and asylum issues in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, and encourages States, the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant actors to continue to work collaboratively, building on the successes of the Conference process to date;

7. *Re-emphasizes* that the protection of refugees is primarily the responsibility of States, whose full and effective cooperation, action and political resolve are required to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to fulfil its mandated functions;

8. *Urges* all States and relevant non-governmental and other organizations, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner, in a spirit of international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to cooperate and to mobilize resources with a view to enhancing the capacity of, and reducing the heavy burden borne by, countries that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers, and calls upon the Office to continue to play its catalytic role in mobilizing assistance from the international community to address the root causes as well as the economic, environmental and social impact of large-scale refugee populations in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition;

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[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

[6] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

[7] Ibid., vol. 360, No. 5158.

[8] Ibid., vol. 989, No. 14458.

[9] Available from www.unhcr.org.

9. *Emphasizes* that international protection of refugees is a dynamic and action-oriented function that is at the core of the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner and that it includes, in cooperation with States and other partners, the promotion and facilitation of, inter alia, the admission, reception and treatment of refugees in accordance with internationally agreed standards and the ensuring of durable, protection-oriented solutions, bearing in mind the particular needs of vulnerable groups and paying special attention to those with specific needs, and notes in this context that the delivery of international protection is a staff-intensive service that requires adequate staff with the appropriate expertise, especially at the field level;

10. *Notes* the activities undertaken in pursuit of the objectives of the Convention Plus initiative,[10] and encourages the High Commissioner and interested States to strengthen the international protection regime through the development of specific, multilateral, comprehensive and practical approaches to resolving refugee situations, including improving international burden- and responsibility-sharing and realizing durable solutions within a multilateral context;

11. *Welcomes* the progress that has been achieved in increasing the number of refugees resettled and the number of States offering opportunities for resettlement, notes that the Multilateral Framework of Understandings on Resettlement[9] sets out the strategic use of resettlement as part of a comprehensive approach to refugee situations aimed at improving access to durable solutions for a greater number of refugees, and invites interested States, the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant partners to make use of the Multilateral Framework, where appropriate and feasible;

12. *Recalls* the important role of effective partnerships and coordination in meeting the needs of refugees and other displaced persons and in finding durable solutions to their situations, welcomes the efforts under way, in cooperation with countries hosting refugees and countries of origin, including their respective local communities, United Nations agencies and other development actors, to promote a framework for durable solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, which includes the "4Rs" approach (repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction) to sustainable return, and encourages States, in cooperation with United Nations agencies and other development actors, to support, inter alia, through the allocation of funds, the development and implementation of the 4Rs and other programming tools to facilitate the transition from relief to development;

13. *Strongly reaffirms* the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the High Commissioner of providing international protection to refugees and seeking permanent solutions to refugee problems, and recalls that these solutions include voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and resettlement in a third country, while reaffirming that voluntary repatriation, supported by necessary rehabilitation and development assistance to facilitate sustainable reintegration, remains the preferred solution;

14. *Acknowledges* that the provision by States of complementary forms of protection to ensure that persons in need of international protection actually receive it is a positive way of responding pragmatically to certain situations, and affirms

[10] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/60/12), chap. III.

that measures to provide complementary forms of protection should be implemented in a manner that strengthens the existing international refugee protection regime;

15. *Notes* that local integration in the refugee context is a sovereign decision and an option to be exercised by States guided by their treaty obligations and human rights principles and that it is a dynamic and multifaceted two-way process that requires efforts by all parties concerned, including a preparedness on the part of refugees to adapt to the host society without having to forego their own cultural identity and a corresponding readiness on the part of host communities and public institutions to welcome refugees and to meet the needs of a diverse population, and acknowledges that the process of local integration is complex and gradual, comprising three distinct but interrelated legal, economic, and social and cultural dimensions, all of which are important to the ability of refugees to integrate successfully;

16. *Acknowledges* that the global refugee situation represents an international challenge requiring that international burden- and responsibility-sharing be addressed effectively, and recognizes that allowing for local integration, where applicable, is an act of States that is a durable solution for refugees, which contributes to the said burden- and responsibility-sharing, without prejudice to the specific situation of certain developing countries facing mass influxes;

17. *Emphasizes* the obligation of all States to accept the return of their nationals, calls upon States to facilitate the return of their nationals who have been determined not to be in need of international protection, and affirms the need for the return of persons to be undertaken in a safe and humane manner and with full respect for their human rights and dignity, irrespective of the status of the persons concerned;

18. *Condemns* all acts that pose a threat to the personal security and well-being of refugees and asylum-seekers, such as refoulement, unlawful expulsion and physical attacks, and calls upon all States of refuge, in cooperation with international organizations where appropriate, to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection, including the humane treatment of asylum-seekers;

19. *Affirms* the importance of mainstreaming the protection needs of women and children to ensure their participation in the planning and implementation of programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner and State policies and the importance of according priority to addressing the problem of sexual and gender-based violence;

20. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to improve its management systems and to ensure effective and transparent use of its resources, recognizes that adequate and timely resources are essential for the Office to continue to fulfil the mandate conferred upon it through its statute [11] and by subsequent General Assembly resolutions on refugees and other persons of concern, recalls its resolutions 58/153 of 22 December 2003, 58/270 of 23 December 2003 and 59/170 of 20 December 2004 concerning the implementation of paragraph 20 of the statute of the Office, and urges Governments and other donors to respond promptly to annual and supplementary appeals issued by the Office for requirements under its programmes;

[11] Resolution 428 (V), annex.

21. *Requests* the High Commissioner to report on his activities to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session.

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General Assembly

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/60/500)*]

60/130. Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held at Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action[1] and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session,[2] as well as a continued global dialogue on social development issues, constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration[3] and the development goals contained therein, as well as the commitments made at major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, including the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit,[4]

Recalling also its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

2. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the report on the world social situation, 2005[6] and one of its main findings, that the development agenda cannot be

[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] Resolution S-24/2, annex.

[3] See resolution 55/2.

[4] See resolution 60/1.

[5] A/60/80.

[6] A/60/117; see also United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.IV.5.

advanced without addressing the challenges of inequality within and between countries and that the failure to address this inequality predicament will ensure that social justice and better living conditions for all people will remain elusive and that communities, countries and regions will remain vulnerable to social, political and economic upheaval;

3. *Welcomes* the outcome of the ten-year review of the World Summit for Social Development, which took place during the forty-third session of the Commission for Social Development, in February 2005;[7]

4. *Also welcomes* the reaffirmation by Governments of their will and commitment to continue implementing the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action,[1] in particular to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and foster social integration to achieve stable, safe and just societies for all;

5. *Reaffirms* the recognition that the implementation of the Copenhagen commitments and the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3] are mutually reinforcing and that the Copenhagen commitments are crucial to a coherent, people-centred approach to development;

6. *Recognizes* that, while action taken to implement the outcomes of the major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions in the economic, social and related fields held during the past ten years will further promote social development, strengthened and effective international and regional cooperation and assistance for development and progress towards increased participation, greater social justice and improved equity in societies will also be required;

7. *Also recognizes* that the broad concept of social development affirmed by the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly has been weakened in national and international policymaking and that, while poverty eradication is a central part of development policy and discourse, further attention should be given to the other commitments agreed to at the Summit, in particular those concerning employment and social integration, which have also suffered from a general disconnect between economic and social policymaking;

8. *Emphasizes* that poverty eradication policies should attack poverty by addressing its root and structural causes and manifestations, and that equity and the reduction of inequalities need to be incorporated in those policies;

9. *Reaffirms* the commitment to employment policies that promote full and productive employment and decent work for all under conditions of equity, equality, security and dignity, and also reaffirms that employment creation should be incorporated into macroeconomic policies;

10. *Reaffirms also* that social integration policies should seek to reduce inequalities, promote access to basic social services, education and health care, increase the participation and integration of social groups and address the challenges posed by globalization and market-driven reforms on social development in order for all people in all countries to benefit from globalization;

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[7] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 6* (E/2005/26), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2005/234.

11. *Reaffirms further* that the Commission for Social Development will continue to have the primary responsibility for the follow-up and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly and that it serves as the main United Nations forum for an intensified global dialogue on social development issues, and encourages Governments, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society to enhance their support to its work;

12. *Reaffirms* the commitments made in "Meeting the special needs of Africa" at the 2005 World Summit,[4] underlines the call of the Economic and Social Council for enhanced coordination within the United Nations system and the ongoing efforts to harmonize the current initiatives on Africa, and requests the Commission for Social Development to continue to give due prominence in its work to the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;[5]

13. *Reaffirms also* that each country has the primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, and underlines the importance of adopting effective measures, including new financial mechanisms as appropriate, to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth, sustainable development, poverty eradication and the strengthening of their democratic systems;

14. *Reaffirms further*, in this context, that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries, including the least developed countries, in strengthening their human, institutional and technological capacity;

15. *Reaffirms* that social development requires the active involvement of all actors in the development process, including civil society organizations, corporations and small businesses, and that partnerships among all relevant actors are increasingly becoming part of national and international cooperation for social development, and also reaffirms that, within countries, partnerships among the Government, civil society and the private sector can contribute effectively to the achievement of social development goals;

16. *Underlines* the responsibility of the private sector, at both the national and the international levels, including small and large companies and transnational corporations, regarding not only the economic and financial but also the development, social, gender and environmental implications of their activities, their obligations towards their workers and their contributions to achieving sustainable development, including social development, and emphasizes the need to take concrete actions within the United Nations system and through the participation of all relevant stakeholders on corporate responsibility and accountability, including for the prevention or prosecution of corruption;

17. *Invites* the Secretary-General, the Economic and Social Council, the regional commissions, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental forums, within their respective mandates, to continue to integrate into their work programmes and give priority attention to the Copenhagen commitments and the Declaration on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development,[7] to continue to be

[5] A/57/304, annex.

actively involved in their follow-up and to monitor the achievement of those commitments and undertakings;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly", and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the question to the Assembly at that session.

64th plenary meeting
16 December 2005

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Agenda item 62

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/60/501)*]

60/131. Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities

The General Assembly,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirming the obligations contained in relevant human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[1] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[2]

Recalling also its relevant resolutions, in particular resolution 37/52 of 3 December 1982, by which it adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,[3] resolution 48/96 of 20 December 1993, by which it adopted the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, and resolution 58/132 of 22 December 2003, as well as the relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions,

Recalling further the adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration on 8 September 2000[4] and of the 2005 World Summit Outcome on 16 September 2005[5] by Heads of State and Government, stressing the need to promote and protect the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by persons with disabilities, and recognizing the importance of incorporating the disability perspective in the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, with a view to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration,

Noting with appreciation the initiatives and actions of Governments to implement the World Programme of Action, the Standard Rules and relevant resolutions that give special attention to the questions of accessible environments and information and communication technologies, health, education and social

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[2] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[3] A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation I (IV).

[4] See resolution 55/2.

[5] See resolution 60/1.

services, employment and sustainable livelihoods, including the relevant activities of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, which reflect the strong commitment to the equalization of opportunities, the rights of persons with disabilities and the promotion and protection of the full enjoyment of all human rights by persons with disabilities, including in the context of development,

Reaffirming the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits and their respective follow-up reviews,

Noting that the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, adopted by the Second World Assembly on Ageing,[6] considers "older persons and disabilities" as a specific issue for policy concern,

Welcoming the progress of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities in preparing a draft text of the convention,

Acknowledging the complementary contributions of all existing international frameworks on disability,

Aware of the fact that there are at least 600 million persons with disabilities worldwide, of whom approximately 80 per cent live in developing countries,

Recognizing the important role of the World Programme of Action in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing also that the achievement of the purposes of the World Programme of Action is congruent with economic and social development, extended services provided to the whole population in the humanitarian area, the redistribution of resources and income and an improvement in the living standards of the population,

Acknowledging the important role of non-governmental organizations, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities, in the promotion and protection of the full enjoyment of all human rights by persons with disabilities, and noting in this regard their work in promoting the elaboration of an international convention on the rights of disabled persons,

Noting with appreciation the important contributions of regional intergovernmental organizations and the regional commissions of the United Nations in promoting awareness and building capacities for the full participation and equality of persons with disabilities, as well as the outcome of international conferences relating to persons with disabilities,

Mindful of the need to adopt and implement effective policies and strategies in all Member States, United Nations agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and regional commissions of the United Nations to promote the rights and the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities at all levels,

Recognizing the importance of accessibility both of the physical environment and of information and communication in enabling persons with disabilities to enjoy fully their human rights and to play an active part in the development of society,

Reiterating that technology, in particular information and communication technologies, provides new possibilities for improving accessibility and

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[6] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8–12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

employment for persons with disabilities and for facilitating their full and effective participation and equality, stressing in this regard the importance of enhancing cooperation among countries for the transfer of technology and technical and economic cooperation in the development and dissemination of appropriate disability-related technologies and know-how, and welcoming the initiatives of the United Nations and contributions from regional groups in promoting information and communication technologies as a means of achieving the universal goal of a society for all,

Recognizing the importance of timely and reliable data on disability-sensitive topics, programme planning and evaluation and the need for the further development of practical statistical methodology for the collection and compilation of data on populations with disabilities, and welcoming the initiatives of various United Nations agencies and regional groups in the area of collection of disability-related data and information,

Recognizing also the need to address the challenge of better incorporating the disability perspective in development and technical cooperation activities,

Recognizing further the need to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities worldwide through the enhancement of awareness of and sensitivity to disability issues and respect for the full enjoyment of all human rights by persons with disabilities and by ensuring that the benefits of development programmes also reach them,

Recognizing that, because the vast majority of persons with disabilities continue to be excluded from the benefits of development and denied the full and equal recognition and enjoyment of their human rights, the impact of poverty on the conditions of persons with disabilities, especially in rural areas, should be given prominent consideration in the elaboration of national and international development strategies,

Expressing grave concern that situations of armed conflict continue to have especially devastating consequences for the human rights of persons with disabilities,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,[7] including his recommendations to mainstream the disability perspective in United Nations international and national development frameworks and to consider the effective synergy in monitoring the implementation of the existing international frameworks on disability;

2. *Welcomes* the work of the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development to promote the full enjoyment of all human rights by, and the equalization of opportunities for, persons with disabilities, and encourages her to continue her work, bearing in mind the background of the World Programme of Action;[3]

3. *Calls upon* Governments to take all necessary measures to advance beyond the adoption of national plans for persons with disabilities through, inter alia, the creation or reinforcement of arrangements for the promotion and awareness of disability issues and the allocation of sufficient resources for the full

[7] A/60/290.

implementation of existing plans and initiatives, and emphasizes in this regard the importance of supporting national efforts through international cooperation;

4. *Urges* Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to promote effective measures, as elaborated in the World Programme of Action, for the prevention of disability and the provision of appropriate habilitation and rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities in a manner respectful of the dignity and integrity of persons with disabilities;

5. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector, as appropriate, to continue to take concrete measures to mainstream the disability perspective in the development process and promote the implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions and agreed international standards concerning persons with disabilities, in particular the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, and for the further equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities;

6. *Encourages* Governments to continue and to strengthen their support to non-governmental organizations and other groups, including organizations of persons with disabilities, that contribute to the implementation of the World Programme of Action;

7. *Also encourages* Governments to involve persons with disabilities in the formulation of strategies and plans, in particular those pertaining to them;

8. *Urges* relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the development agencies and funds, relevant human rights treaty bodies and the regional commissions, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions, to incorporate the disability perspective in their activities, as appropriate, and to continue to work closely with the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Secretariat for the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities and the promotion of the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by persons with disabilities, including in activities at the field level;

9. *Stresses* the importance of improving data and statistics on persons with disabilities, in compliance with national legislation on the protection of personal data, so that they can be compared internationally and domestically for purposes of policy design, planning and evaluation from the disability perspective, urges Governments, in this regard, to cooperate with the Statistics Division of the Secretariat in the continuing development of global statistics and indicators on disability, and encourages them to avail themselves of the technical assistance of the Division to build national capacities for national data-collection systems;

10. *Urges* Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide special protection to persons with disabilities from marginalized sectors of society, who may be vulnerable to multiple, intersecting or aggravating forms of discrimination, with special emphasis on integrating them into society and protecting and promoting their full enjoyment of all human rights;

11. *Urges* Governments to address the situation of persons with disabilities with respect to all actions taken to implement existing human rights treaties to which they are parties and in efforts taken towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals;

12. *Invites* Member States and observers to continue to participate actively and constructively in the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral

International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, with a view to the early conclusion of a draft text of the convention, in order to present it to the General Assembly, as a matter of priority, for its adoption;

13. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental organizations, concerned non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue to support the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability, with a view to strengthening its capacity to support catalytic and innovative activities to implement fully the World Programme of Action and the Standard Rules, including the work of the Special Rapporteur, and to support activities to build national capacities, with emphasis on priorities for action identified in the present resolution;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to support the initiatives of relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as those of regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions, for the further implementation of the World Programme of Action, including the promotion of the full enjoyment of all human rights by, and non-discrimination in respect of, persons with disabilities, as well as efforts to integrate persons with disabilities in technical cooperation activities, both as beneficiaries and as decision makers;

15. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his efforts in improving the accessibility of the United Nations for persons with disabilities, and urges him to continue to implement plans to provide an accessible environment;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on the global implementation of the World Programme of Action, with respect to overall efforts being made to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, also including in the report possible options to improve the complementarity and synergy in the implementation of the World Programme of Action and other United Nations disability mechanisms and instruments, taking into account the strengths and main elements of the World Programme of Action as well as its important role in providing policy guidelines for States.

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Agenda item 62

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/60/501)*]

60/132. Cooperatives in social development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/90 of 16 December 1992, 49/155 of 23 December 1994, 51/58 of 12 December 1996, 54/123 of 17 December 1999, 56/114 of 19 December 2001 and 58/131 of 22 December 2003 concerning cooperatives in social development,

Recognizing that cooperatives, in their various forms, promote the fullest possible participation in the economic and social development of all people, including women, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities, and are becoming a major factor of economic and social development,

Recognizing also the important contribution and potential of all forms of cooperatives to the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and their reviews, the World Food Summit, the Second World Assembly on Ageing, the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Draws the attention* of Member States to the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General for further action to promote the greater participation of cooperatives in poverty reduction, in particular in the design, implementation and monitoring of poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist;

3. *Encourages* Governments to keep under review, as appropriate, the legal and administrative provisions and requirements governing the activities of cooperatives in order to enhance the growth and sustainability of cooperatives in a rapidly changing socio-economic environment, to broaden and deepen the outreach of cooperatives among the poor, in particular those in rural areas or in the agricultural sector, and to promote the participation of women and vulnerable groups in cooperatives across all sectors;

[1] A/60/138.

4. *Urges* Governments, relevant international organizations and the specialized agencies, in collaboration with national and international cooperative organizations, to give due consideration to the role and contribution of cooperatives in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and their reviews, the World Food Summit, the Second World Assembly on Ageing, the International Conference on Financing for Development, the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the 2005 World Summit by, inter alia:

(*a*) Utilizing and developing fully the potential and contribution of cooperatives for the attainment of social development goals, in particular the eradication of poverty, the generation of full and productive employment and the enhancement of social integration;

(*b*) Encouraging and facilitating the establishment and development of cooperatives, including taking measures aimed at enabling people living in poverty or belonging to vulnerable groups to engage on a voluntary basis in the creation and development of cooperatives;

(*c*) Taking appropriate measures aimed at creating a supportive and enabling environment for the development of cooperatives by, inter alia, developing an effective partnership between Governments and the cooperative movement, inter alia, through joint consultative councils and/or advisory bodies and by promoting and implementing better legislation, training, research, sharing of good practices and human resources development;

(*d*) Taking steps to improve the collection and dissemination of information and data on the role of cooperatives in poverty reduction and their contribution to social and economic development;

5. *Invites* Governments, in collaboration with the cooperative movement, to develop programmes aimed at enhancing capacity-building of cooperatives, including by strengthening the organizational, management and financial skills of their members, and to introduce and support programmes to improve the access of cooperatives to new technologies;

6. *Invites* Governments, relevant international organizations, the specialized agencies and local, national and international cooperative organizations to continue to observe the International Day of Cooperatives annually, on the first Saturday of July, as proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/90;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the relevant United Nations and other international organizations and national, regional and international cooperative organizations, to render support to Member States, as appropriate, in their efforts to create a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives, to continue to provide assistance for human resources development, technical advice and training and to promote an exchange of experience and best practices through, inter alia, conferences, workshops and seminars at the national and regional levels;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, focusing on the role of cooperatives in promoting full and productive employment.

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/60/501)]

60/133. Follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 50/142 of 21 December 1995, 52/81 of 12 December 1997, 54/124 of 17 December 1999, 56/113 of 19 December 2001, 57/164 of 18 December 2002, 58/15 of 3 December 2003, 59/111 of 6 December 2004 and 59/147 of 20 December 2004 concerning the proclamation of the International Year of the Family and the preparations for, observance of and follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family,

Noting that in paragraph 5 of its resolution 59/111 and paragraph 2 of its resolution 59/147, respectively, the General Assembly underlined the need to realize the objectives of the International Year of the Family and to develop concrete measures and approaches to address national priorities in dealing with family issues,

Noting also that the family-related provisions of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits of the 1990s and their follow-up processes continue to provide policy guidance on ways to strengthen family-centred components of policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Cognizant that the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004 provided an impetus for integrating family concerns into the national development planning process,

Aware that the basic objective of the follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family is to support families in performing their societal and developmental functions and to build upon their strengths, in particular at the national and local levels,

Recognizing the need to assist families in their supporting, educating and nurturing roles in contributing to social integration,

Convinced of the necessity of ensuring an action-oriented follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family beyond 2004,

Recognizing the important catalytic and supportive role of United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and the regional commissions in promoting international cooperation by ensuring an action-oriented follow-up in the field of the family,

Cognizant of the need for continued inter-agency cooperation on the family in order to generate greater awareness of family issues among the governing bodies of the United Nations system,

Recognizing that civil society, including research and academic institutions, has a pivotal role in advocacy, promotion, research and policymaking in respect of family policy development,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

1. *Encourages* Governments to continue to make every possible effort to realize the objectives of the International Year of the Family and to integrate a family perspective into policymaking;

2. *Invites* Governments to maintain the national coordination mechanisms established or revitalized during the observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family to coordinate policies, programmes and strategies in order to bring about positive transformations by integrating family issues into national development planning;

3. *Recommends* that Governments, in cooperation with concerned academic and research centres as well as relevant non-governmental organizations, encourage action-oriented research that addresses public policies with a family perspective and contributes to the development of strategies, policies and programmes aimed at strengthening the economic and sustainable livelihood of families, and encourages the United Nations programme on the family to support and conduct action-oriented research, including through the issuance of research and publications on relevant topics, with the aim of supplementing the research activities of Governments;

4. *Encourages* Governments to support the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request;

5. *Urges* States, the specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address family-related concerns within the framework of the commitments undertaken at relevant major United Nations conferences and in their follow-up processes;

6. *Urges* Member States to create a conducive environment to strengthen and support all families, recognizing that equality between women and men and respect for all the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all family members are essential to family well-being and to society at large, noting the importance of the reconciliation of work and family life, and recognizing the principle that both parents have common responsibilities for the upbringing and development of the child;

7. *Encourages* continued and increased inter-agency cooperation within the United Nations system on family-related issues, and encourages the programmes, funds and specialized agencies of the United Nations system to identify focal points

[1] A/60/155.

on family matters within their offices to support the integration of family issues in their work;

8. *Calls upon* the Secretariat to continue its important role on family issues within the United Nations system, and in this regard encourages the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to continue cooperation with Governments, the United Nations system and civil society in strengthening national capacities through the implementation of the mandated objectives of the International Year of the Family;

9. *Invites* Member States to undertake a review of the role and functions of existing national machineries for the family in order to better integrate family issues into national development programmes;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session;

11. *Decides* to consider the topic "Follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family" at its sixty-second session under the item entitled "Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family".

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